

# Photography

**CONTEST DATE & LOCATION:** Refer to the Kansas State Championship Conference Packet

**PURPOSE:** To evaluate each contestant's preparation for employment and to recognize outstanding students for excellence and professionalism in the field of (still) photography.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Open to active SkillsUSA members enrolled in programs with photography as the occupational objective.

**CLOTHING REQUIREMENT:** Official SkillsUSA white dress shirt, black dress slacks, black socks (or skin-tone hose for women) and black leather, work or dress shoes.

The Official State T-shirt may be worn at the State Championships.

Official SkillsUSA white polo



**NOTE:** The Official Kansas State T-shirt will be mailed to schools prior to the competition.

## KANSAS STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS (KSC) CONTEST UPDATE



### CONTEST PREPARATION:

#### Equipment and Materials

- DSLR or Mirrorless Camera with the ability to shoot RAW images
- 2 batteries and charger
- Jump Drive (8gb minimum)
- 2 Camera Memory Cards and a Card Reader
- Computer loaded with Adobe Bridge, Adobe Photoshop or Adobe Lightroom
- Digital Portfolio 15 to 20 digital jpeg images showcasing different subjects, techniques and your ability to edit your work.
- Written & printed current résumé (2 Copies)
- Please include the name of one photographer that you admire with a paragraph explaining why. Be prepared to discuss.

1. Photography Technical Knowledge Assessment Test  
A three page fill in the blanks and multiple-choice written test
2. Practical Photography Challenge  
45 minutes to go out on your own, find and capture pictures that interest you and impress the panel of judges on your vision and creativity.  
All photos must be shot RAW.
3. Studio Portrait Skills  
Using the provided constant lights and subject you will be asked to provide three variations of lighting and come up with three interesting photos.  
All photos must be shot RAW.
4. Photoshop Skills  
You will be given two images to retouch.  
A portrait and a scene that needs to be cleaned up.  
Everybody with a camera is eventually going to take a photo of their significant other or their mother-in-law, so they had better know how to retouch.
5. The Job Interview  
Present your written and digital image portfolio to our panel of judges.

## KANSAS STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS (KSC) CONTEST UPDATE



### CONTEST GUIDELINES:

1. **Written Test:** This test has a series of multiple-choice questions that cover some of the following topics:
  - a. History of Photography (iconic photographers and advancements in technology)
  - b. Exposure controls and their effects on images
  - c. Lens choices given a photographic situation (sports, jewelry, studio portraits, etc.)
  - d. General terminology
  - e. Photoshop tools, workflow, processes, etc.
  
2. **Field Assignments:** The assignment evaluates the contestant's creative ability and adherence to contest guidelines. Contestants are brought to an undisclosed location to capture images based on a theme chosen by the technical committee. Contestants will then choose their best images and apply global edits and light editing before producing a contact sheet for judging. Scoring is based on:
  - a. Technical: exposure and focus control
  - b. Creative: overall use of composition, lighting, impact, etc.
  - c. Level of editing
  - d. Contestant's adherence to time limits, location and theme
  
3. **Portrait Studio:** Students will be evaluated on their use and understanding of studio lighting. Scoring is based on, but not limited to:
  - a. Standard studio portrait lighting patterns (e.g., split, Rembrandt, loop, butterfly, broad, short, etc.)
  - b. Light ratios (due to a variety of teaching methods, contestants will be given a "main" light aperture setting [e.g., f/11] and a stop difference for the "fill" light [e.g., two stops])
  - c. Interaction with the model and posing quality
  - d. Use of a provided 18% grey card to establish neural white balance
  
4. **Digital Editing:** Contestants are given images to manipulate in Adobe Photoshop. This contest evaluates the student's knowledge of professional editing techniques.
  
5. **Job Interview:** Contestants will be present their digital resume along with their digital portfolio and be given an interview to assess their communication skills and overall job readiness. Please include the name of one photographer that you admire with a paragraph explaining why. Be prepared to discuss.